

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

October 21, 2022



National

[Drug court utilization of medications for opioid use disorder in high opioid mortality communities](#)

Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment

Methods: The study surveyed adult drug courts (N = 169, 80% response rate) in US counties with high opioid mortality rates or numbers of opioid-related deaths about their policies and practices relating to MOUD and the overdose-reversal medication, naloxone.

Results: Nearly three quarters of the programs (73%) reported providing access to all FDA-approved MOUD medications, >90% offer agonist medications (buprenorphine and/or methadone), 80% provide naloxone training, and 62% distribute naloxone overdose-reversal kits to their clients. Most programs rely principally on medical judgment for medication decisions (75%), have received staff training on MOUD (65%), and have arranged for clients to continue receiving agonist medications while serving jail sanctions for program violations (63%). Nevertheless, only about one quarter to one half of clients with OUDs receive the medications in most programs, and respondents offered few explanations for this disconnect between policy and practice. In addition, 24% of the programs continue to overrule medication decisions and 36% of the jails in these communities do not offer agonist medication for drug court clients serving custodial sanctions.

Arkansas

[Arkansas Attorney General Rutledge allocates opioid settlement money to fund drug courts](#)

KOLR

The Arkansas Drug Court program is about to receive additional funding.

During a Tuesday afternoon news conference, Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge announced an additional \$1 million would be allocated to the state Adult Drug Court program. The money is from the settlement between Arkansas and opioid consulting firm McKinsey & Company, which settled for \$500 million in 2021.

The \$1 million will fund new and existing drug court programs, Janet Hawley, Specialty Court Coordinator for the Administrative Office of the Courts stated in a post-conference interview.